Regulatory Update

CMS Releases ESRD PPS CY 2019 and PFS Rules
CMS released the Calendar Year 2019 ESRD PPS Rule on July 11th. The full rule can be viewed here.

CMS also released the 2019 Physician Fee Schedule – it can be viewed at this link.

There are no major changes for home dialysis, but both present interesting opportunities for comment. The Alliance will draft comment letters for the Alliance’s full review. The Alliance’s Accountability and Reimbursement Working Group call regarding the rules is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1st.

Telehealth Expansion under the Comprehensive ESRD Care (CEC) Program
CMS’ has issued a Telehealth Wavier for several behavioral health codes billable under the CEC Model. The full list of codes and the telehealth waiver can be viewed at this link. Qualified CEC participants will receive a waiver of the originating site requirement for telehealth services. Implementation will begin on October 1st, which is the start of the CEC plan year.

Alliance Activities

Alliance Supports KidneyX Innovation
The Alliance for Home Dialysis signed a multi-stakeholder letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar commending HHS for the establishment of KidneyX. The KidneyX Innovation Accelerator was originally discussed at Alliance Member American Society of Nephrology’s 2017 Kidney Week. The intent of the Innovation Accelerator is to help improve the lives of those living with kidney diseases by accelerating the development of drugs, devices, biologics and other therapies across the spectrum of kidney care including prevention, diagnostics, and treatment. The full letter of support is attached to this email.

Follow the Alliance on Social Media
In an effort to boost the Alliance’s reach to lawmakers, patients, and potential members, we are developing a stronger social media presence and strategy. Please follow the Alliance at the links below: Twitter Facebook

Home Dialysis in the News

They were waiting for an organ transplant. Then their program shut down, CNN: https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/11/health/porter-adventist-organ-transplant-closure-patients/index.html


**Upcoming ESRD Network Events**

Date: 7/26/18  
Event: DPC Educational Call- Kidney Transplantation  
Network: 16 & 18 (CA)  
Link: www.dpcedcenter.org/education-call

Date: 8/21-22/18  
Event: CentraCare Health Nephrology Nursing Certification Course  
Network: 11 (MN, MI, ND, SD, WI)  
Link: http://midwestkidneynetwork.org/events/centracare-health-nephrology-nursing-certification-course

Date: 8/28/18  
Event: LAN QIA D: Positively Impact the Quality of Life of the ESRD Patient with a Focus on Pain Management  
Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)  
Link: http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/

Date: 9/18/18  
Event: QIA B: Positively Impact the Quality of Life of the ESRD Patient with a Focus on Mental Health  
Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)  
Link: http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/

Date: 9/25/18  
Event: QIA C: Support Gainful Employment of ESRD Patients  
Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)  
Link: http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/

Date: 10/3/18  
Event: Network 3 Annual Meeting  
Network: 3 (NJ, PR, USVI)
Link: https://www.qirn3.org/Annual-Meeting.aspx

Date: 10/30/18
Event: 6th Annual ANNA/IPRO ESRD Fall Educational Meeting
Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)
Link: http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/